



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC
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Released: January 17, 2006

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Idaho Potato Stocks Down 12 Percent from Last Year

Potato stocks held by growers, dealers, and processors in Idaho on January 1 totaled 74.5 million cwt, 10.0 million cwt less than on hand January 1, 2005. Disappearance, at 42.5 million cwt, is down from last year's 47.5 million cwt. Stocks in the 10 Southwest counties totaled 4.80 million cwt, down from last year's revised 5.60 million cwt. The Other counties' stocks, at 69.7 million cwt, were 9.2 million cwt less than the amount stored on January 1, 2005. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon used 6.37 million cwt of 2005 crop raw potatoes during December, down 2 percent from last year. For the 2005 crop, processors have used a total of 29.0 million cwt to January 1, down 6 percent from last year. Idaho potatoes accounted for 24.2 million cwt of the total processed. The remaining 4.80 million cwt were produced in other states.

Nationally, the 13 major potato States held 219 million cwt of potatoes in storage January 1, 2006, down 7 percent from last year and 6 percent below January 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 59 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, unchanged from last year. Disappearance of 154 million cwt of potatoes is down 7 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 16.2 million cwt so far this season, is down 14 percent from last year for comparable States. Processors in the 9 major States have used 81.7 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 5 percent from a year ago and 7 percent below two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 16.0 million cwt of the total processing, down 14 percent from last year and 13 percent below the same date in 2004.

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